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THE NEW MUTANTS™

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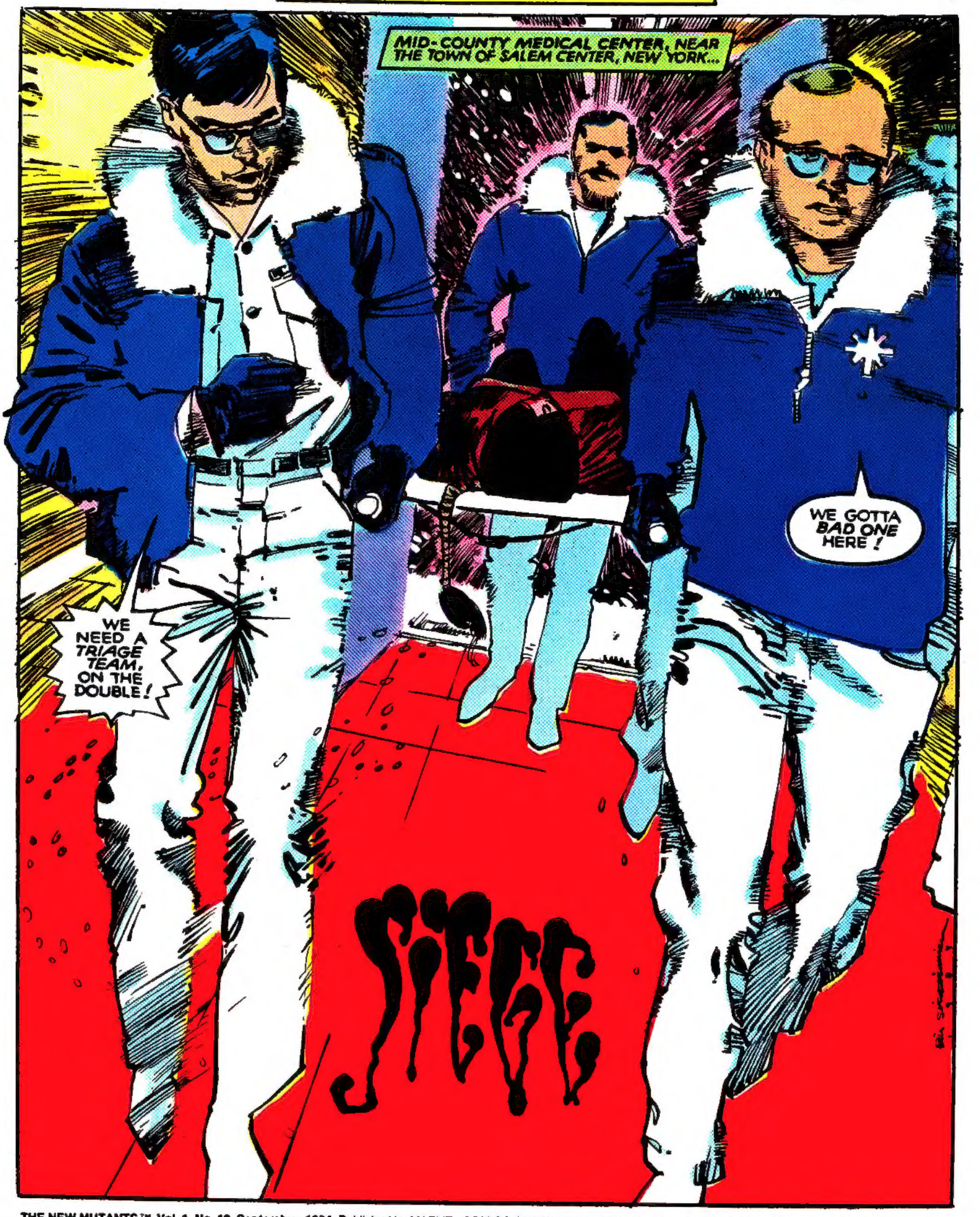
CREATED BY *CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD*


MID-COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER, NEAR THE TOWN OF SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK...
WE NEED A TRIAGE TEAM, ON THE DOUBLE!
WE GOTTA BAD ONE HERE!
SIEGE

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WHO IS SHE?!

DANIELLE MOONSTAR--A STUDENT OVER AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL.

TYPE HER AND CROSS-MATCH! WE'LL NEED SIX UNITS, WHOLE BLOOD, TO START AND PROBABLY A WHOLE LOT MORE.

BETTER PUT OUT A CALL FOR DONORS AS WELL.

I'M BARELY GETTING A PULSE.

VISIBLE COMPOUND FRACTURES--FEMUR AND FIBULA...

... MULTIPLE LACERATIONS, TORSO AND EXTREMITIES...

...POSSIBLE ABDOMINAL TRAUMA...

... CRUSHED AND SUBLUXED VERTEBRAE...

... SKULL TRAUMA, POSSIBLE CONCUSSION...

... PROBABLE FLAIL CHEST...

PREP THE O-R, STAT!

I WANT HER IN SURGERY, AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

NO TIME!

WHAT ABOUT X-RAYS?!

IT'S A MIRACLE SHE LASTED THIS LONG. SHE'S ONE TOUGH KID.

WHAT'S THIS ON HER FACE, *WAR PAINT*?!

LET'S ROLL, PEOPLE!

I HOPE NONE OF YOU HAS ANY PLANS FOR THIS EVENING -- WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE QUITE A WHILE.

EXCUSE ME...

...I'M *TOM CORSI*, WESTCHESTER COUNTY POLICE. ARE YOU KIDS WITH THE YOUNG LADY?

WE'RE HER CLASSMATES SIR. AH'M *SAM GUTHRIE*.

ROBERTO DaCOSTA.

AMARA AQUILLA.

THIS IS *RAHNE SINCLAIR*. I'M *ILLYANA RASPUTIN*. OFFICER, HOW'S DANI, WILL SHE BE ALL RIGHT?!

I DON'T KNOW, ILLYANA. I HAVEN'T SEEN WOUNDS LIKE THAT SINCE VIETNAM. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

NEAR AS WE CAN FIGURE, SIR, SHE WAS MAULED BY A *BEAR*.

IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY?! YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

OF COURSE, *SENHOR*. THIS IS ONE GREAT, ELABORATE PRACTICAL JOKE.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.

CANDY

THEN *DO* SOMETHING -- BESIDES STANDING AROUND HERE BABBLING LIKE AN *IDIOT!*

ROBERTO! IT ISN'T THE OFFICER'S FAULT.

HE'S DOING HIS BEST TO HELP!

I'LL GO, SON -- AS SOON AS I GET ALL THE FACTS.

I HEARD YELLING, WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SORRY, MA'AM. WE'RE A BIT ON EDGE.

AH GUESS SOME OF US HAD T' LET OFF STEAM.

I UNDERSTAND -- BUT KEEP IT DOWN, OKAY? YOUR FRIEND'S HOLDING HER OWN -- SHE'S A REAL FIGHTER, THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.

DEAR LORD, LET DANI BE WELL. LET HER LIVE!

YOU KIDS ATTEND XAVIER'S, RIGHT?

UH-HUH -- THAT'S RIGHT, MR. CORSI -- PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

TH' ONLY THING IS, WE CAN'T EVER TELL ANYONE...

TERRY AUSTIN FAN CLUB

...WHAT OUR "GIFT" IS-- THAT WE'RE *MUTANTS*, A BREED APART FROM HUMANITY, BORN WITH SPECIAL POWERS.

NOT THAT DANI'S DID HER MUCH GOOD.

DANI'S FOLKS ARE DEAD-- HER GRAN'-PA RECENTLY PASSED AWAY. AH S'POSE SHE HAS NO OTHER KIN-- AN' TH' PROF MUST'A BEEN A REAL CLOSE FRIEND O' THE FAMILY-- 'CAUSE THE WILL ASKED THAT HE BE NAMED HER LEGAL GUARDIAN.

HE'S IN MASSACHU-SETTS ON BUSINESS. HE'S DUE BACK T'MORROW, BUT THIS SNOW MIGHT HOLD HIM UP.

YEAH, IT'S PRETTY BAD. I'LL TRY TO GET WORD TO HIM THROUGH THE STATE POLICE.

WE'LL ORGANIZE THE SEARCH FOR YOUR BEAR AT FIRST LIGHT-- ASSUMING THE STORM BREAKS BY THEN.

IF ALL GOES WELL, DANI'LL BE ON THE TABLE FOR HOURS...

WHAT ARE HER CHANCES, REALLY?

I WON'T LIE. SHE'S BEEN TERRIBLY HURT. YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOUR HOPES TOO HIGH.

SINCE YOU'RE STAYING, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS GET SOME REST. I'LL *SCROUNGE FOR SOME PILLOWS AND* BLANKETS.

AS SOON AS I HEAR ANY NEWS-- GOOD OR BAD-- I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

WHY DID IT HAVE TO SNOW TONIGHT?! WE'RE STUCK IN THIS HOSPITAL--

--WHEN WE SHOULD BE HOME, FOLLOW-ING THAT MONSTER'S TRAIL!

WASTE O' TIME, BOBBY. YOU WON'T FIND THE CRITTER THERE.

IT'LL BE *HERE*.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SAM-- *EXPLAIN YOURSELF!*

STANDS T' REASON. EVER SINCE WE'VE KNOWN HER, DANI'S HAD A SPECIAL FEAR OF A SPIRIT BEAR SHE SAID MURDERED HER PARENTS. NONE OF US REALLY GAVE THE STORY MUCH CREDIT-- AFTER ALL, WHO B'LIEVES IN MAGIC?

'CEPT, ILLYANA'S A REAL WITCH. AN' WE'VE FOUGHT DEMONS AN' SORCERESSES. MAYBE DANI WASN'T KIDDIN'.

ILLYANA TELLS ME DANI SPENT THE LAST WEEK OR SO IN THE DANGER ROOM, FIGHTIN' *BEARS!* T'NIGHT, SHE WALKED OUT INTO A STORM, ALONE, ARMED WITH BOW AN' ARROWS AN' WEARIN' WAR PAINT!

AN' GOT MAULED.

WE WERE WRONG T' DOUBT HER. WE SHOULD'A LISTENED, WE SHOULD'A SEEN THE SIGNS.

AH FIGURE SHE FACED HER NIGHT-MARE BEAST-- BUT SOMEHOW, HEAVEN KNOWS WHY, IT DIDN'T KILL HER.

EVEN MONEY SAYS IT'LL TRY AGAIN.

MID-COUNTY HOSPITAL

EMERGENCY

AN' THIS IS THE IDEAL PLACE AN' TIME, WITH DANI'S LIFE HANGIN' BY A THREAD IN THE OPERATIN' ROOM.

IF AH'M RIGHT, THE *NEW MUTANTS*...

... ARE THE ONLY HOPE SHE'S GOT.

SAM, THIS IS DANI'S BELT-- A KEEPSAKE FROM HER MUM.

MAY I WEAR IT, PLEASE?

SURE, CARROT-TOP. AH DON'T THINK SHE'D MIND.

YOU TWO GIRLS...

... HAVE THAT SPECIAL RAPPORT, DON'T'CHA, RAHNE-- WHENEVER YOU TURN INTO A WOLF?

BOBBY, WE NEED SOME PRIVACY-- CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

YOU HAVE *SUNSPOT'S* WORD, SAM...

... SO LONG AS I HOLD THIS DOOR CLOSED, NO POWER ON EARTH WILL OPEN IT!

AIN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE HULK, BOBBY, ONLY THE NURSE.

AT SAM'S BIDDING, THE YOUNG SCOTS GIRL...

... SHAPE-SHIFTS TO HER TRANSITIONAL FORM-- PART-HUMAN, PART-WOLF, COMBINING THE BEST ASPECTS OF BOTH INCARNATIONS.

HOWEVER, THIS TIME...

BY HECATE!

SAM, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER--?!

SHE'S SO--

"--DIFFERENT!"

IT'S NOT SIMPLY M'LOOKS-- I C'N FEEL A WILD POWER WITHIN ME THA'S FRIGHTENING... YET NATURAL AN' RIGHT!

RAHNE, CAN YOU MIND-LINK WITH DANI? CAN YOU HEAR HER THOUGHTS?!

YES, SAM-- YES!!

I'M AWARE OF HER-- AN' SHE OF ME!

BUT THE IMAGES ARE BROKEN... BLURRY--

--I CAN BARELY UNDER-STAND THEM!

'TIS THE DOCTORS-- THEY'VE GIVEN HER MEDICINE T' PUT HER T' SLEEP!

TRY HARDER, RAHNE-- BUT BE CAREFUL! WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE THINGS WORSE.

DANI!

HUHHHH, RAHNEY!

D'YOU HURT?

ONLY WHEN I LAUGH-- GIGGLE!

JUS' KIDDING, KIDDO, I REALLY CAN'T FEEL A THING. IT'S BLISS.

HER BACK'S BROKEN.

POOR KID-- EVEN IF SHE SURVIVES, SHE'LL BE TOTALLY PARALYZED.

RAHNEY-- THE BEAR-- LISTEN-- MUST TELL--!

HEART-RATE'S INCREASING-- SHE'S REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS!

DON'T LET HER, BLAST IT! ADMINISTER MORE ANAESTHETIC!

HER SYSTEM CAN'T HANDLE THE STRAIN-- WE'RE LOSING HER!

SAM-- DANI'S *DYING!*

AN'-- AN' IT'S *MY* FAULT!

I COULD NA' HEAR HER THOUGHTS, SO SHE FORCED HERSELF T' WAKE, T' PROJECT THEM LOUDER.

IF ANYONE'S RESPONSIBLE, CHILD, IT'S ME. AH ASKED YOU T' DO IT.

THE BEAR'S NOT DONE WI' HER, SAM. DANI'S CERTAIN IT'LL COME AGAIN.

BUT-- I MUST'VE GOT THE NEXT BIT WRONG-- SHE SAYS THE BEAST IS MORTALLY *SCARED* OF HER.

WHY?

BECAUSE SHE POSSESSES THE POWER T' *DESTROY* IT!

THEN WHY DIDN'T SHE USE IT TO SAVE HERSELF?

I DON'T KNOW, AMARA! SHE WASN'T ABLE T' TELL ME! AN' I DARE NOT ASK HER AGAIN.

OH, SAM-- HOW CAN WE FIGHT SUCH A FEARSOME CREATURE?! IT'S *MAGIC!*

SO AM I.

AND, WHEN YOU WANT TO BE, RAHNE, YOU CAN BE PRETTY FEAR-SOME YOURSELF. WE'LL GIVE THE BEAST A RUN FOR HIS MONEY.

BESIDES, IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAVE A CHOICE.

ILLYANA'S RIGHT. THERE'S MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN JUST DANI -- THIS HOSPITAL'S FULL OF HELPLESS PATIENTS, WHO KNOWS WHAT THE BEAR MIGHT DO T' THEM?

EVEN IF WE CAN'T KILL IT, WE'VE AT LEAST GOTTA KEEP IT AT BAY 'TIL THE PROF AND THE X-MEN CAN REACH US.

LIKE IN THE MOVIES, EH, SAM? THE BESEIGED SETTLERS HOLDING OUT WHILE THE CAVALRY RACES TO THE RESCUE ?!

FOR ALL OUR SAKES, BOBBY-- THEY BETTER ARRIVE IN TIME!

MEANWHILE...

CORSAIR!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

I WAS HAVING THE MOST *MARVELOUS* OF DREAMS, MY FRIEND-- WHO ROUSED THE *STARJAMMERS* TO BATTLE STATIONS?!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, CH'OD, I'M RESPONSIBLE.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, BINARY.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAIN SCANNER.

WHAT-- IS IT?!

I BELIEVE-- BOTH VESSEL AND LIVING BEING.

WITH THOSE POWER AND PERFORMANCE READINGS, WOMAN?! IMPOSSIBLE!

NEVERTHELESS, CORSAIR, IT EXISTS-- AN ENTITY ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF A HUMAN BEING, TRAVELLING AT ULTRA-LIGHT VELOCITIES, WITH AN ENERGY POTENTIAL THAT MATCHES THE *STARJAMMER'S*.

IS IT A THREAT?

BEFORE BINARY CAN ANSWER...

SHARRA AND K'YTHRI PRESERVE US!!

WHAT, PRAY TELL, WAS *THAT*?!?

I'D SAY-- A BIGGER VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL CONTACT.

CORSAIR, THIS IS WALDO. BOTH ENTITIES ARE ALREADY OUT OF SCANNING RANGE. HOWEVER, ASSUMING A BALLISTIC TRAJECTORY AND PROJECTING THEIR COURSE AHEAD...

... THEY WILL DEFINITELY TRAVERSE THE SOL SYSTEM-- AND QUITE POSSIBLY STRIKE THE EARTH.

CORSAIR, YOUR CHILDREN -- MY FAMILY -- THE X-MEN! CAN WE GO AFTER THOSE CREATURES, WALDO?!

PURSUE, YES. CATCH, NO.

A STARGATE COULD TRANSPORT US HOME INSTANTANEOUSLY.

TRUE, BUT BY THE TIME WE CONSTRUCTED A PORTAL LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE STARJAMMER, THE ENTITIES WOULD HAVE ALREADY REACHED TERRA. I'M SORRY, CORSAIR, EVEN A SUBSPACE RADIO WARNING WILL ARRIVE TOO LATE.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?!

WAIT. PRAY. AND, SHOULD THE WORST OCCUR --

--AVENGE!

EARTH.

IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS SINCE DANIELLE MOONSTAR WAS ADMITTED TO MID-COUNTY HOSPITAL.

THE SURGEONS' WORK HAS BARELY BEGUN.

OCH -- THEY'RE CUTTIN' SO MUCH, AN' SO DEEPLY, THERE'LL BE NOTHIN' LEFT O' DANI WHEN THEY'RE DONE! THIS IS NA' MEDICINE -- BUT BUTCHERY!

I WANTED T' SEE HOW SHE WAS FARING, BUT NOW I WISH I'D NEVER COME! FORGIVE ME, DEAR FRIEND -- I KNOW IT'S A SIN --

-- BUT BETTER YOU HAD DIED THAN LIVE T' SUFFER SO.

NO! I MUST NA' THINK THAT! DANI HASN'T GIVEN UP-- SHE'S FIGHTING WI' ALL HER STRENGTH-- AN' SO WILL I!

HEY!

OFFICER CORSI!

WHAT THE DEVIL--?!

YOU BY THE DOOR-- FREEZE!

I CANNA LET HIM CATCH ME LIKE THIS!

I HAVE T' RUN!

I'M SEEING THINGS! IT STANDS ON TWO LEGS, BUT IT LOOKS MORE WOLF THAN HUMAN--THAT'S CRAZY!

HALT-- OR I'LL...

...FIRE!?!

DON'T SHOOT, MR. CORSI, IT'S ONLY ME!

RAHNE?!?

MY GOD!

WAS THAT YOU I SAW JUST NOW?! WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU DOING, YOUNG LADY, WHY DID YOU BOLT LIKE THAT? YOU NEARLY GOT YOURSELF SHOT!

I'M SORRY.

I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT DANI, I COULD NA' SLEEP.

IN CASES LIKE THIS, SHORT STUFF, NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS.

THESE LIGHTS ARE SO BLASTED LOW, AN' I'M TOO BLASTED TIRED-- I MEAN, TO MISTAKE THIS KID FOR SOME KIND OF MONSTER! NEXT, I'LL BE SHOOTING AT MY OWN SHADOW!

C'MON, I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO BED. AND THIS TIME STAY THERE! THAT'S WHERE YOU BELONG.

THIS WAITING-- AND THAT STORM-- ARE DRIVING EVERYONE BUGGY.

THANK HEAVEN I DIDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER.

HI, SHARON-- GOT A MINUTE?

SURE, TOM.

YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK SO PALE--!

CALL IT A PAINFUL REMINDER OF HUMAN FALLIBILITY.

I JUST SCARED THE LIFE OUT OF MYSELF.

OH?

ANY WORD ON DANI? THE KIDS WERE ASKING.

HOLDING HER OWN. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN-- THE LONGER SHE LASTS, THE BETTER HER CHANCES.

THAT HOLD TRUE FOR ME?

IN WHAT SENSE?

YOU ALWAYS WORK THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT?

IT'S A STAGGERED ROTATION. DO YOU?

I GOT SENIORITY, I CAN GET IT CHANGED.

SUPPOSE I ALREADY HAVE A GUY?

IT NEVER HURTS TO ASK.

YOU FIGURE YOU'RE PRETTY HOT STUFF, huh, CORSI?

RRRRRR

BE DARING, FRIEDLANDER. FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF.

SHARON, QUIET-- DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?!

IT SOUNDED LIKE... A GROWL...

TOM-- OH, MY GOD--

--TOM!!

EEEE

THE HALL'S DESERTED. NONE SAVE US REACTED TO THE NOISE -- BUT OTHERS MUST HAVE HEARD IT.

UNLESS-- THE MONSTER HAS CARRIED THEM ALL OFF AS WELL.

ROBERTO AND ILLYANA ARE AT THE SURGERY. WE HAVE TO WARN THEM!

LIVE, MENINA!

I COULD NOT BEAR TO LOSE YOU--

--AS I DID MY BELOVED *JULIANA*.

CLEAR AWAY FROM THE DOOR, ROBERTO. I'M CASTING THE *WARDS*.

THE SPELL SHE CONJURES IS KNOWN TO ONLY A SELECT FEW OUT OF HUMANITY'S TEEMING BILLIONS.

THE EFFECT IS QUITE MAGICKAL...

...AS IT TRANSFORMS ILLYANA INTO PURE ENERGY, ALLOWING HER TO TAKE A PORTION OF HER LIVING SELF AND FORM A PROTECTIVE WALL AROUND THE SURGERY.

THEN, HER TASK COMPLETE...

WHOOOOO...!

I'VE GOT YOU.

THANKS. I'LL BE OKAY IN A MINUTE.

MOST IMPRESSIVE.

BUT WILL IT WORK? WILL YOUR SHIELD KEEP OUT THE BEAR?!

ROBERTO...

LET ME AT HIM!

WATCH YOURSELF, BUSTER.

DON'T WASTE YOUR STRENGTH! YOU CAN'T REPLACE IT UNTIL AFTER SUNRISE! AND REMEMBER, FOR ALL YOUR POWER--

--YOU'RE NOT *INVULNERABLE!*

SLAM!

I TOLD YOU DUMMY--

AAIIEEE!

... I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

NO TIME TO BE FANCY-- I NEED MY *SOULSWORD!*

AT LEAST MY COSTUME BLUNTED THE FORCE OF THE CREATURE'S...

...CLAWS...

... BY THE ABYSS-- MY *ARM!?!*

WAS THAT ME-- MY FLESH?!?

MY SWORD IS DIFFERENT, TOO!

BUT NO LESS POWERFUL! SCREAM, MONSTER--SCREAM! I HOPE I HURT YOU!

ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?! WHERE'S THE BEAR?!!

GONE, SAM.

AND SO'S THAT WEIRD STUFF ON MY ELBOW-- MY COSTUME LOOKS GOOD AS NEW!

WE'RE ALL RIGHT-- THOUGH I'M A LOT LUCKIER THAN I DESERVE.

THE LIGHTS!?!

AND, INSIDE THE O.R. ...

POWER FAILURE!

NOBODY MOVE-- ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE HOLDING A SCALPEL!

THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS SHOULD KICK IN AUTOMATICALLY--!

MADONNA BE PRAISED-- WE CAN SEE AGAIN!

I CAN'T RAISE ANY OF THE DUTY STAFF OR GET AN OUTSIDE LINE.

FORGET IT-- LET'S FINISH HERE WHILE WE'RE STILL ABLE.

"THE WIND COULD HAVE SEVERED THE POWER LINES."

"YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT ANY MORE'N ME, ILLYANA. THAT CRITTER'S NO DOPE--WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP.

GENERATOR ROOM

"BOBBY 'N' ME'LL STAY HERE.

"YOU GIRLS COVER THE GENERATOR ROOM.

IF THESE MACHINES ARE SO IMPORTANT, SHOULDN'T SOMEONE BE CARING FOR THEM?

THAT'S THE THEORY.

THESE WARDS WON'T BE AS STRONG AS THE FIRST SET--I'M RUNNING PRETTY CLOSE TO EMPTY.

WHERE'D THAT BLOODY BEAR COME FROM, ANYWAY?! WHY'S IT AFTER DANI?!!

YOU WERE IN HER HEAD, RAHNE...

I'VE TOLD YOU ALL I KNOW, WITCH!

RELAX, FUZZY! I'M NOT THE ENEMY--

ARRRGH!

HE'S... UPSTAIRS! THE BEAR!!

AS NOTED EARLIER...

...THE WARDS ARE AN EXTENSION--- A PART--- OF ILLYANA.

HER LIFE-FORCE MAINTAINS THEM--- AND WHEN THEY ARE STRUCK, SHE FEELS THE FULL FORCE OF THE BLOW.

OPERATING ROOM

SHOULD WE GO T' THEIR AID?!

STAY HERE, GIRL! YOU DON'T EVER DESERT A COMRADE, ESPECIALLY IF SHE'S WOUNDED!

SUDDENLY...

SHOOT, BOBBY-- TH' UGLY SUCKER C'N TELEPORT!

HEADS UP, LADIES! WE'D BE OBLIGED FOR SOME HELP!!

Bullpen Bulletins

WORTH NOTING . . .

I've been informed that those nice folks from PARKER BROTHERS are at it again.

Not content with bringing production here to a screeching halt by releasing the SPIDER-MAN VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE a while back, thereby causing all of the video-game addicts around here to be glued to their home-video consoles nonstop for days, they're coming out with *more* great games. Not only that, they've got a special phone number you can call (for only half a buck a shot) which gives you the word on the latest from the Parker Brothers videoids. And the number is . . . 1-900-720-1234.

Don't get me wrong — they're going to try to get you interested enough to *buy* their games if you call. It isn't exactly a public service announcement you get when you call the number — but, then again, it *is* a service if you're really interested in video games and you really want to know what's coming up. I know that no one around here who plays video games could resist calling! And they look so happy now — !

INCIDENTALLY . . .

Some people have asked why our Limited Series now cost 75¢. Good question. We *did* go the heavier, whiter, Mando Roto paper — but that doesn't increase our costs anywhere near enough to justify a hike from 60¢ to 75¢. It does cost enough to warrant *some* increase in cover price though. We considered going to 65¢, or even 70¢, but we felt that such a move would have caused great confusion among retailers, who would have then been faced with *three* different prices on comics which all look pretty much the same to them. Believe me, they're already plenty confused with just *two* different prices. More confusion could hurt the whole comics *industry*. Really. Therefore, we reluctantly followed the competition's lead and went to 75¢ for our Mando Roto Limited Series comics. It's, frankly, too much to charge — but we felt we had no choice. The good news is that, because we're making a little "extra" on the Limited Series comics, we'll be able to hold off on a price increase on the 60¢ line that much longer.

Sincerely,

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

THE HYPE BOX

SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #1 — Prince Namor is the offspring of both Atlantis and the surface world, yet he feels at home in neither. Will his attempt to unite the two bring him peace of mind — or tear him and his homeland apart? This is the first installment of the long-awaited four-issue limited series, brought to you courtesy of J.M. DeMATTEIS, writer, BOB BUDIANSKY, penciler, and DANNY BULANADI, inker.

WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #1 — What do you do when you have too many Avengers in New York City? Why, you send some of them off to California to open a branch office, of course! Hawkeye and Mockingbird are two of the charter members. The others? You wouldn't believe us if we told you! But what we're wondering is this: Will this branch office have drive-up windows? Written by ROGER STERN, penciled by BOB HALL and inked by BRETT BREEDING.

SIX FROM SIRIUS #1 — The rescue of one woman can prevent the slaughter of 25 billion innocent people — at least! But it won't be easy to rescue her; she's being guarded by robots programmed to kill any warm, moving object on detection. That's where Six from Sirius come in. They're a group of crack intergalactic mercenaries that tackle missions like this as a matter of course. The series is by DOUG MOENCH and PAUL GULACY, the award-winning team that brought you MASTER OF KUNG-FU. Now from Epic Comics.

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #15**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #210**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #19**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #1** — More fun than a Jacuzzi, but not as expensive. See Hype Box.
- ☐ **TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #1, 2 and 3** — Marvel's official adaptation of the new **Indiana Jones** movie.
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #24**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #256**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #297**
- ☐ **THOR #347**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #21**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #2**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #9**
- ☐ **SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #1** — Will Atlantis be admitted to the United Nations? See Hype Box.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #298**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #247**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #162**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #167** — Reprinting "The Wondrous World of Doctor Strange," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from **Amazing Spider-Man Annual #2**
- ☐ **X-MEN #185**
- ☐ **ROM #58**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #109**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #27**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #270**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #145** — Featuring **Spider-Man** and **Iron Man.**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #186**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #94**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #135**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #87**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #14**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #103**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #18**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #16**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #25**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #12**
- ☐ **COYOTE #7**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS #1** — Science-fiction adventure, beautiful traitors and killer robots. See Hype Box.

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #30: TEMPLE OF DOOM** — The complete Marvel adaptation of the new **Indiana Jones** movie, printed on high-quality paper.
- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #31: THE LAST STAR FIGHTER** — The greatest video-game player ever must save the universe. Can he do it before he runs out of quarters? Adapted from the forthcoming movie.

FROM MAGMA COMES A BALL OF MOLTEN LAVA.

THE BEAR SQUALLS IN PAIN AND LASHES OUT AT THE NEAREST TARGET.

AGAIN!

MORE OF THAT STRANGE GROWTH-- MY BACK'S COVERED WITH IT!

I DON'T THINK IT'S HARMFUL, THOUGH. THE BEAR SHOULD HAVE SMASHED ME TO A PULP, BUT ALL IT DID WAS RUIN MY COSTUME-- DID THIS STUFF PROTECT ME, IS IT SOME SORT OF ARMOR?!

I GUESS...

... I'VE A WHOLE LOT MORE TO LEARN ABOUT MYSELF.

DRIVE THE BEAR AWAY FROM THE GENERATOR! MY WARDS ARE WEAKENING -- I CAN'T MAINTAIN THEM MUCH LONGER!

THE SOULSWORD HURT IT BEFORE, MAYBE--

RAHNE, LOOK OUT!

YYII!

WHUNNFFF!

UH-OH!

THE CRITTER LOOKED LIKE THIS JUS' B'FORE IT TELEPORTED!

IT'S CASTING A SPELL, I CAN FEEL IT!

DO SOMETHING, ILLYANA-- YOU'RE THE SORCERESS-- *PROTECT US!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW!!

THERE IS A MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE MADNESS-- OF THEIR UNIVERSE, THE PROPER ORDER OF THINGS, BEING TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN, INSIDE-OUT-- FOLLOWED BY BLESSED OBLIVION...

...AND THEN...

DAYLIGHT!

THE AIR'S WARM-- IT'S SUMMERTIME! AN' WILL Y'ALL LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE! THIS IS SOMEWHERE OUT WEST!

THAT'S OFFICER CORSI AN' MISS FRIEDLANDER-- THEY'RE PRISONERS! AN' AH CAN SEE DANI'S OPERATION IN THAT BUBBLE-- WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON?!!

IT'S SIMPLE, SAM. THE BEAR COULDN'T BEAT US ON OUR TURF, SO HE TRANSPORTED US TO *HIS*.

TO BE CONCLUDED

MUTANT MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Chris, Sal, Bob, Louise and Jim,

About NEW MUTANTS #7: I think this issue marks the beginning of the book's "coming into its own." The art on Sal and Bob's part is really starting to shape up and take on a dynamism of its own. The visual storytelling is becoming effective (the Baja sequence and the entire night sequence in Rio, including the final fight scene between Sunspot and Axe). While the X-Men make a brief appearance in the story, the New Mutants are starting to break away from those early, necessary continuity bonds with the parent book; they're making their own way.

Now to a less general comment. The Hellfire Club: a little more direct conflict, if you please, perhaps even involving students at Ms. Frost's Massachusetts Academy, in deadly parallel with more traditional school rivalries.

K. Alan McDougall
2081 Carrick St
Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 2M5

In light of recent events, Alan, your comments about the Hellfire Club and the Massachusetts Academy seems downright prescient; you wouldn't happen to be a mutant precog yourself, huh, fella?! Hope you still enjoy the book, and the new direction we've just launched ourselves off in with artist Bill Sienkiewicz. Let us hear from you, okay?

Dear Emperor Jim,

This letter is a first — the very, *very* first time I have ever written a comment to a comic, so you can be sure it's a drastic situation. I don't know what you're doing, but for several issues now you've been playing musical chairs with the artists. It's not working.

For one thing, Dani's physique seems to be getting attacked the worst. First, she's a pretty teen on her way to becoming a striking woman; then she's a tall, gawky, underfed kid. I assume that she is a high schooler, so why the figure of a fourth-grade boy? Rahne is fine, just perfect for her whole personality, an innocent, simple beauty. Roberto and Sam are also perfect, Roberto being the smaller and more developed while Sam is taller and gangly. Great! But Dani?? Of them all, she's totally wrong. At her age, girls have 1/2 to 3/4 of their entire adult figure, especially girls with Dani's structure. I don't mean make her voluptuous, but she's got *nothing*! Also, her face is so angular it defies imagination how she's not anorexic. I hope you fill it out or get her eating something. And please, *please*, improve her posture. How could she have been such a nature child, living in the wild, running and developing agility and yet have her weight thrown so far off. Please do something before I go crazy.

I hate only to criticize so to give fair time, I think the stories and, importantly, the characters are real and unique. You've done the incredible in creating a new comic family with new *people*. Great work!

Cindy Marshall
33 Surrey Mall
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Gee, Cindy, we hope you haven't really gone crazy or anything; we like to think our readers are at least as sane as we are — hmmnnn, perhaps that's best rephrased somewhat. As to Dani's current appearance, we think she looked pretty spiffy — until she met the Bear. Now, we — like her teammates — are a lot more concerned with her survival.

Dear Marvel,

THE NEW MUTANTS is a pretty good book, but the plotline starting in #8 is atrocious. As a black person myself, I'm sick and tired of these storylines that place lost Roman legions or other whites in the jungle whenever it starts to appear that the so-called "savage" tribes have any intelligence. You've turned the clock back decades with that old bull about how the Amazon tribeswomen turn out to be whites wearing some kind of dye because their knives show sophisticated workmanship. I hope in the future you at Marvel will avoid such cliche-ridden, worn-out racist stories when the action takes place in a non-Western country or culture (the New Mutants story takes place in an area where Western civilization hasn't arrived yet).

Quentin Sinclair
(no address)

There are two misconceptions in your premise, Quentin, perhaps brought about by deficiencies in the stories themselves: first that the Romans were the only and dominant inhabitants of Nova Roma; they are not. They share the city and the governance thereof with descendants of the Inca nation, who fled into the Andes four centuries ago after the Spaniards under Pizarro conquered their homeland. One of the major conflicts of the story was between the Roman concept of a republic and the Inca monarchy. What was intended from the first — and only partially realized — was to show a blending of these two disparate cultures, with some people holding to the old Inca or Roman ways, while others blended them or evolved them into something completely different. As for Amara's disguise, that's precisely what it was — *her* disguise. The other women were most probably of Indian or mixed blood descent; Amara's disguise was necessary because she dared not be spotted and recognized by any patrols, since that would mean her father's political ruination. We had — and have — no intent to present a racist storyline, and hope to present a far more balanced portrayal of life in Nova Roma when next we return there. We hope you'll stand by us till then.

Dear Mutants and Friends,

With regard to Amara's lack of reaction to the drugged wine and the "attacks" which are growing more frequent, I have only one thing to say: MUTIE! MUTIE!! I'll be waiting and eager to see what her power is. Obviously the Black Priestess has known it all along. I mean, she's obviously been after Amara for SOME reason.

Rahne is in love with . . . SAM??? I thought it was 'Berto she was giddy over! But then, she's a wee baim o' fourteen. I'm sure there's many a bonny lad in her future.

Say, in NM #8, in the bottom / middle panel on page 9, Dani appears to be holding her hand rather strangely. This is the first moment that she and Sam meet Amara and her companions. Dani has her thumb and first two fingers extended and her last two tucked under. Did her hand just fall into that position or was she hoping against hope, that she could communicate with these strangers through an Indian sign?

I strongly suspect that Nina's death — or seeming death — is going to be what it takes to knock a little sense and decency back into Emmanuel. How much did that report he received from Castro tell him? Does he know that one of his son's friends was very nearly murdered to foul up his wife's expedition? Whether he did or not, I don't mean to upset Roberto, but his old man has been looking slimier by the minute! And when he first appeared in the graphic novel, he seemed like such a good guy — Arrrgh!

Finally, um . . . why . . . do the Nova Romans . . . speak English . . .???

Alice E. Willoughby
324 Emerson St
Palo Alto, California 94301

The truth has long since been revealed regarding who and what Amara truly is — pretty fair guess, Alice! And Rahne and Sam's romance has, alas, come to naught; his heart is in another place, though it seems the feelings are not reciprocated. As for Rahne's romantic prospects, only time will tell. Maybe Dani used a sign, and maybe not — hehhehheh! Unfortunately, though, the events in Nova Roma seem to have pushed 'Berto's father in the opposite direction from what you surmised / hoped. Is he beyond redemption? Stick around.

Finally, the Romans learned English — among other languages — from captured / enslaved members of previous Andean expeditions, the ones referred to as having "mysteriously disappeared."

NEXT ISSUE: the kids' final confrontation with Dani's Nightmare Bear, on its home ground, where it is stronger than ever; and worse, they find themselves battling ensorcelled foes — in the persons of Officer Corel and Nurse Friedlander — that they dare not harm. And even if they win, even if Dani survives, what sort of life awaits her? We promise surprises galore, a guest appearance by some X-Men — and more of the mysterious entity known as WARLOCK! In 30 days, true believers, the New Mutants fight for all they hold dear in "BADLANDS!"

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST